REMARKS

Claims 1, 4 and 11 have been amended with respect to the objections noted at page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 3 and 5, indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form, have been rewritten as claims 12 and 13 respectively. The rewritten claims incorporate the amendments to obviate the Examiner's objections to claims 1 and 3.

Claim 1 has also been amended with respect to the "such as" phrase appearing in line 2. Claim 1 now refers to lamps of different types "characteristic of" of the PAR36 or AR111. In addition, at the end of the introduction, the claim now specifies "wherein the lamp socket comprises". It is believed that this should obviate the indefiniteness objected to in the Office Action.

The indefiniteness referred to in claims 6-9 has been corrected by amendment of claims 6 and 8 to include lamp features in an introductory portion of the claim and then to clarify that the socket is characterized by certain features for cooperating with the characteristic features of the lamp. It is believed to be clear from the amended claims that the lamp is not part of the claimed subject matter, although the characteristics of the lamp are expressed to clarify the functioning of features of the lamp socket.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 11 have been amended, either directly or by reason of dependency, to distinguish further over the prior art and are believed to be allowable as now presented.

Claims 1, 2 and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Sawada et al. 6,315,611. However, the Sawada et al. patent discloses an entirely different type of structure which is not designed to receive two distinctly different forms of lamp. Sawada et al. shows a socket having laterally spaced receiving clips. However, the similarity ends at that point. Each of the clips of the Sawada et al. patent includes an element on one side making electrical contact (connecting holder piece 34A) and an opposed element for mechanically engaging the bulb (retaining holder piece 34B). The element 40, shown in Fig. 4, has protuberant elements 38, 39, but these are not retention elements but are merely contact elements. The retention element is item 37 on the opposite side of the lamp base (not shown in Fig. 4). The configuration of the contact 40 is explained at column 4, lines 23 et seq., as enabling electrical contact to be achieved even if the lamp contact wire is bent inward, as shown in Fig. 4 of the Sawada et al. patent.

In the applicant's device, as claimed, the U-shaped contact clips have opposed inwardly protuberant retention elements positioned to lie closely above and closely below planar portions of the lamp contact elements. This is a significant aspect of the invention and is nowhere shown or suggested in the

Sawada et al. patent. Sawada et al. thus has neither the purpose nor the structure of the applicant's invention as set forth in amended claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, as amended, the lower protuberances are intended to limit the downward extent of the plug-in insertion of the lamp. In the Sawada et al. patent, the elements 38 and 39 do not serve either a retention or a limiting purpose. These elements are provided to make electrical contact with the lamp wire 13. A separate element (retention holder piece) is provided at the opposite side in Sawada et al. with a single protuberance arranged to engage with a groove 14 on the lamp base. This is altogether different in structure and purpose from the subject of applicant's claim 2.

Claim 10, as now amended, includes additional limitations that the socket body side walls serve to limit outward lateral displacement of the outwardly flared portions of the contact clip side walls. The prior art has no corresponding feature.

Claim 4, at least as now amended, is clearly distinct from any teachings of Sawada et al. in combination with Ruehlemann 3,192,498. Ruehlemann shows a contact element formed with contact projections in the form of louvers (148, 150) and dimples (152, 154). However, the louvers and dimples are simply linear guides which guide the insertion of the contact pin 158. Claim 4, as now amended, calls for the first retention elements to be engaged and temporarily outwardly displaced during plug-in insertion of a lamp and projecting inward over

planar portions of the lamp contact after the plug-in insertion has been completed. This provides a form of snap-in insertion of the lamp base, as the planar elements thereof are forced past the upper set of dimples. There is no corresponding feature of Ruehlemann with respect to its dimples which serve only to guide the contact pin during its longitudinal insertion. If dimples were to be incorporated somehow in the Sawada et al. socket, it is not clear from the disclosures of either Sawada et al. or Ruehlemann just how and where they would be located or what their function would be.

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the opening for the mounting screw is located between the contact clips, to accommodate rotational position adjustment of the socket body when the socket is used for mounting a lamp having an oriented output beam. The Fielding patent 746,483 shows a conventional screw-in bulb socket with provisions for mounting by means of an axially located screw. However, it is clear that there is no intention in the Fielding disclosure to provide for rotational position adjustment of the socket. In the first place, there would be no need for such, unless the socket were to be used with a lamp having an oriented output beam, as contemplated by the present invention. More importantly, the illustrated forms of the Fielding device appear to preclude any rotational re-positioning of the socket, inasmuch as there is a form of tongue and groove alignment arrangement that fixes the orientation of the socket, so rotational adjustment would not be possible.

It is thus believed that the claims as now presented are clearly patentable over the art of record, and allowance thereof is believed to be in order, in the absence of a discovery of more relevant art.

Respectfully submitted,

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